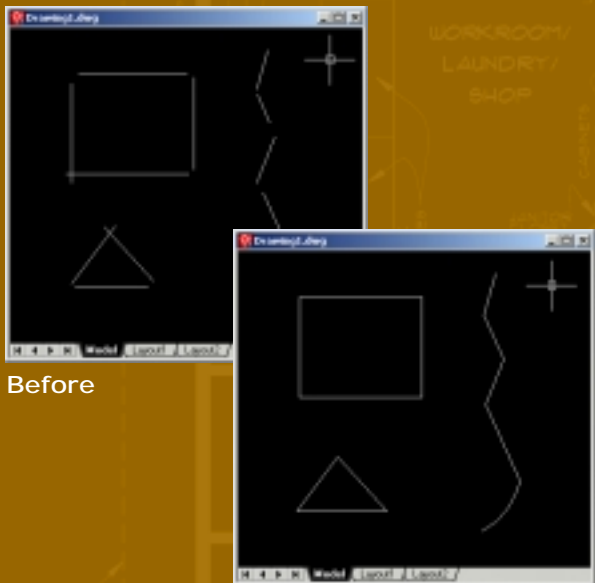


Polyline Join

There's a new feature in the PEDIT command of AutoCAD 2000i that you might find useful. You can specify a "fuzz" factor used with the Join option to join lines, arcs and polylines to an open polyline if their ends connect or are close to each other. The ends are joined by either trimming them, extending them or connecting them with a new segment.



To create one or more polylines from multiple lines, arcs or polylines, use these steps:


1. Click **Modify** ➔ **Polyline** from the pull-down menu.
2. Type **M<enter>** to enter the Multiple option.
3. Select the desired objects.
4. If prompted "Convert Lines and Arcs to polylines [Yes/No]? <Y>", enter **Y** for Yes.
5. Type **J<enter>** to use the Join option.
6. Enter a Fuzz distance (hint: you can pick two points on the screen to indicate the fuzz distance).

The fuzz distance must be bigger than the largest gap or overshoot you're trying to correct, but not so big that you join polylines that are supposed to be separate.

7. In the example screen capture shown above, AutoCAD tells us on the command line:

9 segments added to 3 polylines

Today

In the June newsletter I recommended that you turn off the Today window ("More 2000i Configuration Options", step 5). Even if your settings do not display the Today window on startup, you can use the Today command anytime by clicking the **Today** toolbar button,  located on the Standard AutoCAD toolbar.

My favorite feature of Today is the recent file list. Not only does it seem more reliable than the recent list that you access from the File pull-down, but it has more features as well.

Today runs in a separate window from AutoCAD. Like AutoCAD, you can minimize it or close it, but it cannot be resized.

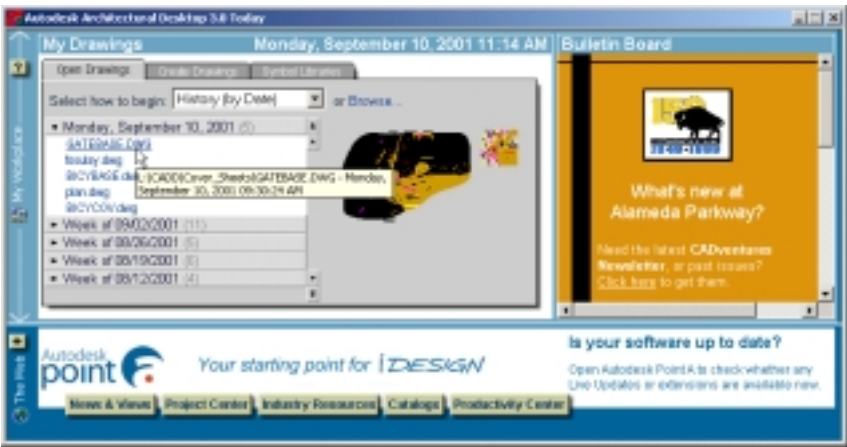


Figure 4: The Today window, Open tab, showing recent drawings organized by date.

Open Drawings tab

Displays a list of recently used drawings, which you can organize by most recently used, history by date, filename, or location. When you hold your cursor over a drawing name, a preview and tag with file information will display. Click on a drawing name to open it. Click **Browse** to access a Select File dialog.

Create Drawings tab

You can start a new drawing based on a template, a wizard, or start from scratch.

Symbol Libraries tab

Pick one of the links to load the associated drawing into Design Center. From Design Center, you can drag and drop blocks into your current drawing.

Bulletin Board

Here I've placed information specific to our office at the Alameda Parkway building. You find links, including past issues of this newsletter.

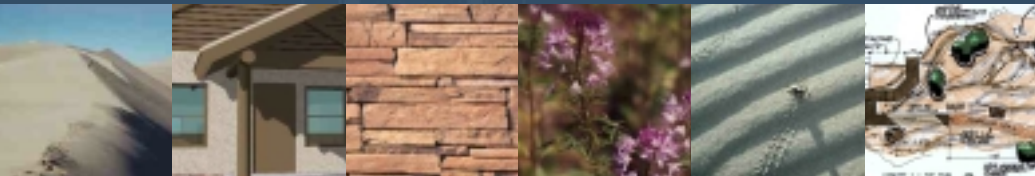
Autodesk Point A

A website, Point A is another Autodesk marketing tool that actually has useful AutoCAD news and resources. You register with the site and personalize it to suit your interests. It includes free downloadable symbols, manufacturers catalogs, tips and techniques, discussion groups and links to other CAD sites.

CADVENTURES

Information for Users of AutoCAD

September Two Thousand One : Presented by Bruce Littlehorn for NPS and BLM



in this
issue

More about AutoCAD 2000i...

- Use **eTransmit** to send drawings to our FTP site
- Join objects into Polylines with a **fuzz** factor
- Exploring features of the **Today** window

And AutoCAD in General...

- **Selecting** objects, a refresher

eTransmit

If you send drawing files to others, you gotta try this!

A new command in AutoCAD 2000i called **eTransmit** collects the current drawing and all associated files (xrefs, fonts, and more) into a single folder, a .zip file, or a self extracting .exe file. This makes it easy for you to email the “transmittal set” to someone, or eTransmit will copy the set directly to our FTP site.

You may have used the Express Tool Pack-n-go to do the same thing, but eTransmit has several advantages:

- eTransmit lets you create the destination folder on the fly. With pack-n-go, you have to create the folder before running the command.
- Pack-n-go will not automatically compress your files into zip or exe format, eTransmit will.
- eTransmit can copy the transmittal set directly to an FTP site. Using pack-n-go, you have to copy the set to a local or network drive, and then upload the files to the FTP site in a separate step.
- Using eTransmit, you can decide which files to include. For example, it is unnecessary to include standard font files like romans.shx. Pack-n-go will always include all files, but using eTransmit, you can exclude files.

Follow these steps to send a drawing and its associated files to our FTP site...

1. Using AutoCAD, open **S:\Training\eTransmit\Cabr\233\16\Arch\A1-plans.dwg**.
2. Click from the pull-down menu, **File → eTransmit**, or type **ETRANSMIT<enter>**, or click the eTransmit toolbar button. See figure 1.
3. In the General tab, notes area, type: **A1 - plans and elevations, building sections, room finish schedule as of 9/06/01**
4. For the type, choose Self-extracting executable. Do not assign a password.
5. To the right of Location, click the **Browse** button.
6. Click the **FTP** icon in the lower-right hand side of the “Specify self-extracting executable file” dialog.
7. If your list of FTP locations includes **ftp.nps.gov**, skip to step 12 now.
8. From the Tools pull-down, click **Add/Modify FTP Locations**.
9. In the Add-Modify FTP Locations window, enter **ftp.nps.gov** in the Name of the FTP site box.
10. Click **Add**.
11. Click **OK** to exit the Add/Modify... window.
12. Double-click **ftp.nps.gov**.
13. Double-click **Incoming**.
14. Look for a **Cabr** folder, if it does not exist, click the **Create New Folder** button, and name the new folder **Cabr**.
15. Double-click on the **Cabr** folder.
16. If there is not a **16** folder, use the **Create New Folder** button to make a folder, name it **16**.

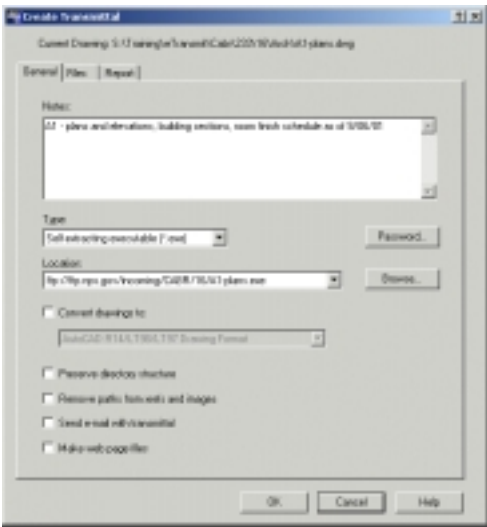


Figure 1: eTransmit General Tab

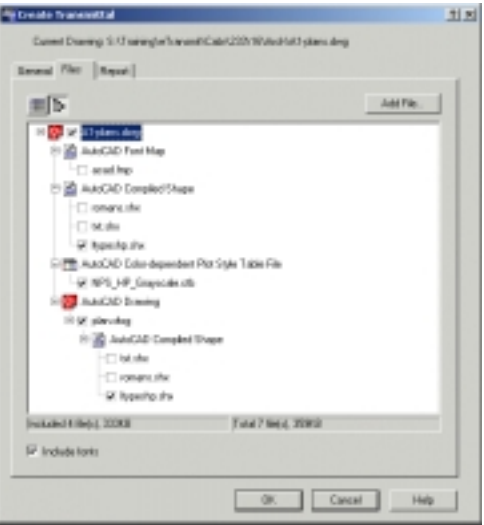


Figure 2: eTransmit Files Tab

17. Double-click on the **16** folder.
18. Click **Save**. Notice you can change the name of the exe file (before you click save).

Back in the Create Transmittal window...

19. Un-check all other options in the General tab, below Location. Figure 1.
20. In the **files** tab, notice the list of files included in the set. You can deselect any file if you choose, such as standard fonts like roman.shx. See figure 2.
21. Also in the files tab, notice the Add file... button. You can attach other files to this set, for example a Word document .doc.
22. Click **OK**. Once complete, notice on the command line: Transmittal created: ftp://ftp.nps.gov/incoming/CABR/16/A1-plans.exe.

Think About It

If you need to create a transmittal set from multiple drawing files, you could use the steps above to create multiple .exe files, one for each drawing. An easier way might be to set the type (in step 4 above) to Folder (set of files), with the location set to the FTP site, or if you plan to zip the files, set the location to a temporary folder on your C: drive. Once you have used eTransmit on each drawing, you can zip all of the files, then copy the .zip to the ftp site. Zipping an AutoCAD drawing typically reduces its size by 50-80%, so download times for the person on the other end are much faster.

Retrieving the Transmittal Set

Now we will extract the files from the .exe, like the recipient of the transmittal set would...

1. Using Internet Explorer, go to **FTP.NPS.GOV** (In the address bar of Internet Explorer type **FTP.NPS.GOV<enter>**). Don't add a 'www'.
 2. Double-click **Incoming**, then **Cabr**, then **16**. You should see the file you created, for example A1-plans.exe.
 3. Double-click on **A1-plans.exe** (or whatever file you created).
 4. Choose **“Run this program from its current location”**, then click **OK**.
 5. Click **Yes** to accept the security warning.
 6. In the eTransmit window, click **Browse**, then navigate to a location of your choice (a temporary folder, which you will delete later).
 7. Click **OK**, and **OK** again.
 8. The final window should indicate **“All items were successfully extracted”**.
- Use Windows Explorer to verify that the files were extracted, and delete them if you want.

Congratulations, you just created, uploaded and downloaded a Transmittal Set!

Selection Sets

Most AutoCAD users select objects using one of three methods: 1. single pick 2. a crossing window (right to left) 3. a window (left to right). Sometimes we forget to use features of AutoCAD that have been around awhile.

Whenever AutoCAD prompts you to “Select objects:”, whether you are erasing, moving, changing their layer, or any other operation where you select objects, there are several hidden options that you can access by typing one of the following keywords:

- C** Crossing window (same as right to left)
- W** Window (same as left to right)
- F** Fence - you pick a series of points like a fence, and any object that touches that fence is selected.
- CP** Crossing Polygon - you pick at least three points to form a polygon, any objects inside of or touching the polygon are selected (see figure 3).
- WP** Window Polygon - similar to CP, however, objects must be inside of the window to be selected.
- P** Previous - re-selects the objects you last selected. Very useful!
- L** Selects the most recently created visible object
- U** Undo - cancels the selection of the object most recently added to the selection set
- ALL** Selects all objects on thawed layers
- M** Multiple - specifies multiple points without highlighting the objects, thus speeding up the selection process for complex objects.

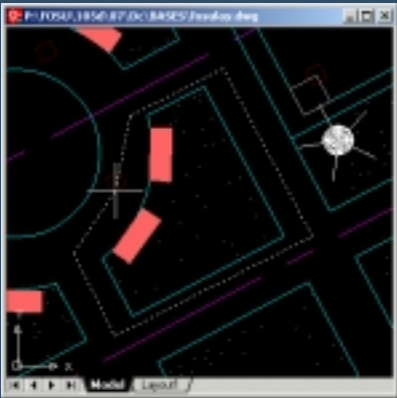


Figure 3: Selecting objects using the WP, or Window Polygon option.